

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00  
/028 W

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R 011630Z MAR 77  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH  
AMEMBASSY BISSAU BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1429

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINR, PGOV, SG  
SUBJ: SENEGAL CWEI DT CHANGES

REF: DAKAR 1349

1. SUMMARY. "MINI-RESHUFFLE" OF SENEGALESE CABINET REMOVES DOUGOU NGOM FROM MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, FOLLOWING WEEK OF PROTESTS BY LYCEE STUDENTS OVER BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES; NGOM'S TRANSFER TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS REFUELED PAST RUMORS THAT HE WILL SOON LOSE POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF SENEGALESE WORKERS (CNTS). DISMISSED MINISTER OF HEALTH MATAR NDIAYE HAD LED UNPOPULAR OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE MOONLIGHTING BY GOVERNMENT DOCTORS. ABDEL KADER FALL, NEW MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, IS WELL-REGARDED PROFESSIONAL IN FIELD OF EDUCATION AND ACTIVE FIGURE IN GOVERNING SOCIALIST PARTY WHO VISITED US AS 1976 GRANTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, GOS HAS ANNOUNCED TRANSFER OF  
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DOUDOU NGOM, FORMER MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION, TO MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. HE WILL BE REPLACED BY ABDEL KADER FALL, FORMERLY SECRETARY GENERAL IN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION. MATAR NDIAYE, WHO HAD BEEN SERVING AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, LEAVES THE GOVERNMENT.

3. IMPENDING MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE HAD BEEN SOURCE OF LIVE-  
LY SPECULATION FOR MONTHS (DAKAR A-15, 76 DAKAR A-109).  
NGOM, WHO IS ALSO CNTS PRESIDENT, HAS LONG CONFOUNDED CRITICS  
WHO PREDICTED HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE FROM CABINET. HOWEVER,  
FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HE JOINED GOVERNMENT IN 1970, NGOM  
(WHO IS TEACHER BY PROFESSION AND HEAD OF NATIONAL TEACHERS  
UNION) WILL NO LONGER BE ASSOCIATED WITH EDUCATION IN  
GOVERNMENT. WHETHER EVENTS ARE RELATED OR NOT, TRANSFER OF  
UNPOPULAR NGOM SHOULD HELP PLACATE SENEGALESE STUDENTS,  
WHO HAVE ENGAGED DURING PAST WEEK IN SERIES OF STIKES AND  
DEMONSTRATIONS (DAKAR 1285) AGAINST PERCEIVED SHORTCOMINGS IN  
LYCEE ADMINISTRATION (SPORADIC STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS LATE  
LAST WEEK LED TO SHATTERING OF DISPLAY WINDOWS IN  
COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN VICINITY OF LYCEES AND UNI-  
VERSITY). QUESTION WHICH REMAINS TO BE ANSWERED IS WHETHER  
NGOM, WHO IS UNPOPULAR AMONG UNION RANK AND FILE, WILL RETAIN  
CNTS PRESIDENCY. PRESIDENT SENGHOR DOES NOT HAVE STATUTORY  
AUTHORITY TO REMOVE HIM FROM CNTS POSITION, BUT IT IS WIDELY  
RUMORED THAT CNTS WILL HOLD EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS-- POSSIBLY  
IN APRIL--TO CHOOSE NEW LEADERSHIP WHICH COULD WELL EXCLUDE  
NGOM. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT NGOM ALREADY IS BEING  
OBLIGED TO SHARE SOME AUTHORITY OF CNTS PRESIDENCY.

4. ABDEL KADEL FALL'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE WELCOMED BY  
STUDENT COMMUNITY WHICH CONSIDERS HIM MORE SYMPATHETIC  
TOWARD, AND UNDERSTANDING OF, EDUCATIONAL NEEDS.. (STUDENTS  
AT ALL BUT ONE LYCEE REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO CLASSES PEACE-  
FULLY FEBRUARY 28.) FALL, 43 YEARS OF AGE, IS PROFESSIONAL IN  
EDUCATION FIELD, WHO HAS EXPERIENCE AS HEADMASTER IN  
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SENEGALESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF SEC-  
ONDARY EDUCATION IN 1973-74. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN  
FEBRUARY 28 LE SOLEIL, NEW MINISTER SAID HE WOULD  
CONTINUE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION POLICIES BUT PLEDGED "TO  
TRY TO IMPROVE OUR STRUCTURES IN ORDER TO BE EVER CLOSER  
TO TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND TO MAKE OUR ORGANIZA-  
TION MORE FLEXIBLE AND ABLE TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS WITH  
MAXIMUM RAPIDITY." FALL IS ALSO AMONG EIGHT INFLUENTIAL  
OFFICIALS OF GOVERNING SOCIALIST PARTY WHO MAKE UP PARTY'S  
"GROUPE DE REFLEXION," AND WAS ACTIVE FIGURE AT DECEMBER  
1976 PARTY CONGRESS. HE MADE VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO US  
IN 1976 UNDER INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (GRANT JUSTIFI-  
CATION AND BASIC BIO DATE WAS CONTAINED 76 DAKAR 3224).  
MISSION OFFICERS ENJOY CLOSE AND FRIENDLY WORKING RELATION-  
SHIP WITH FALL.

5. ONE STORY HAS IT THAT FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH NDIAYE  
WAS DISMISSED DUE TO PROTESTS OVER HIS EFFORTS TO HALT  
MOONLIGHTING BY DOCTORS ON GOVERNMENT PAYROLL. HE HAD BEEN

CABINET MEMBER FOR BARELY TWO YEARS. POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT NDIAYE, WHO IS 47-YEAR-OLD MEDICAL DOCTOR HIMSELF (AND PRESIDENT OF SENEGALESE RED CROSS), COULD BE REAPPOINTED TO AMBASSADORIAL OR OTHER GOVERNMENT POST IN FUTURE.

6. ANNOUNCED MINISTERIAL CHANGES, WHICH LE SOLEIL DUBBED "MINI-RESHUFFLE," ARE MUCH LESS EXTENSIVE THAN HAD BEEN RUMORED, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY DO NOT AFFECT MINISTRIES OF FINANCE OR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. SPECULATION IS THUS LIKELY TO CONTINUE UNABATED OVER POSSIBILITY OF MORE FAR-REACHING SHIFTS AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

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## Message Attributes

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